

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

**Minutes:** Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, September 28, 2006  
**Place of Meeting:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Rm.

**I. Roll** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Arthur, Garcia, Grilli, Mateo, McCarter (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Swiger and Wan (arrived at 7:52 p.m.)  
Commissioners Absent: None  
City Council Liaison Present: Bob Livengood  
MUSD Liaison Present: Carmen Montano  
Staff Present: Cuciz, Maxwell

**II. Alternates** There were no Alternates present at the start of the meeting. None were seated.

**III. Pledge** Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Minutes** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of August 24, 2006.

M/S: Garcia/Swiger                      Ayes: All

**V. Agenda** **MOTION** to approve the September 28, 2006 agenda.

M/S: Grilli/Garcia                      Ayes: All

**VI. Announcements/Correspondence**

None.

**VII. Citizen's Forum**

None attending.

**VIII. Old Business**

**1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP**

Chair Grilli reviewed the e-mail copy from Catherine that was included in the agenda packet. He noted that item one suggests that Huizhou would prefer to send visitors to conferences and have Milpitas facilitate their visit. Grilli does not see any issue with this. Commissioner Garcia stated that she could help with tours of the city. Grilli noted that the second suggestion about sending City of Milpitas employees to Huizhou for some sort of work exchange, might not work well. As an example, Councilmember Livengood stated at the very beginning of the City's relationship with another sister city; Kukizaki (now Tsukuba;) several management staff members visited Japan for

the original signing of the MOU around ten years ago, and there has not been a staff exchange since then. Garcia noted that if staff or others visited Huizhou, it would need to be at their personal expense. Grilli stated that Huizhou is suggesting a long term (around a 3 month) work experience exchange and he does not believe there is interest in this. Councilmember Livengood also stated there is probably not strong interest in a 3 month exchange at this point and there are budget issues as well. Grilli also noted the impact this could have on a particular department by assuming the responsibility of a Huizhou employee, as well as losing an employee who would be visiting Huizhou. Grilli, referring to item one in Catherine's letter and asked staff to respond and encourage a more specific answer as to what type of visit they would like facilitated and to indicate to them that at this time the city is not pursuing an employee work exchange.

Regarding a visit from Huizhou, Commissioner Swiger stated that perhaps they could visit for a week. Garcia stated that if they are interested in conferences, then they could also tie that into a visit with Milpitas. Commissioner Mateo stated her concern that if their visit is strictly for purposes outside of Milpitas, then they should focus on that purpose. MUSD Liaison Montano stated that they may also want it to be a sister city visit along with other activities. Montano asked where the visitors would stay. Grilli noted that they would stay at local hotels.

## **2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP**

Chair Grilli noted that the results of the surveys were included in the agenda packet. Garcia noted that there was some feedback that was not positive in some areas. Grilli noted that successful items included the student exchange and activities at school and there were no housing issues. He stated that most of the issues that arose involved adults more than the kids, and the repetitious failure by some of the adults to adhere to schedules and students were then left waiting. There was also an embarrassing incident during a visit to a trade school because one adult from Dagupan made it publicly clear that he was wasting his time being there. Grilli noted his concern that the city could continue a sister city relationship with Dagupan, however, Milpitas School District personnel are not obligated in any way to participate and if this type of behavior continues, then the program will be at risk. Vice Chair Arthur concurred. Grilli will forward a synopsis of the issues to Montano.

Swiger noted that there could possibly be more educational activities as opposed to tours. Grilli noted that a day was scheduled for touring San Francisco, which he believes is a good experience for the visitors. Arthur agreed that the tour of San Francisco is a good idea. Montano stated that a visit to San Francisco could be viewed as educational. Garcia also noted that it is good to see more than one city when visiting here – especially when families spend money to send their children. Mateo concurred. Staff will create a matrix noting the issues from the visit and provide it to the commission and the Dagupan representative.

## **3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP**

Vice Chair Arthur reviewed the itinerary and airport transportation issues. She also noted that the display case at City Hall was completed.

## **4. EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH**

Commissioner Arefi reported that he is still exchanging e-mails. He stated that this is a slow process and to bear with him as there should be some progress that he could report at the next meeting.

## **5. SISTER CITY COMMISSION ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Commissioner Garcia stated that the commission would like to have all commissioners participate in events and put forth an active effort. It is her recollection that the bylaws do not mention this as

a requirement and suggested edits to the bylaws. Commissioner Arefi asked if commissioners could be briefed about the expectations of the commission before final approval by the City Council and suggested that candidates should first attend a meeting where these expectations could be conveyed. Commissioner Mateo suggested some sort of screening process such as attending a commission meeting first and finding out what is expected. Garcia made a suggestion that as a commissioner's term comes due, perhaps they could write a summary to the Chair about what they participated in and their accomplishments. The Chair could then forward this to the City Council so that people who are truly committed and interested could be rewarded for that.

Grilli stated that these issues are coming up because over the years there have been commissioners who are less productive and those that are more active and it's a point of frustration for those who are active to see others do very little and occupy seats that could be open to those who would be more productive. Councilmember Livengood stated that the best way to deal with these issues is to get something into the bylaws that could include expectations of the commissioners such as meeting attendance and contributions to events and programs. The expectations could be put into the bylaws so that potential commissioners understand the issues up front and realize that this commission is very involved in community events and they need to participate in some of those. Livengood further noted that changes to the bylaws could be recommended by the Sister City Commission and sent to the City Council. The bylaws could be as specific as stating that commissioners need to attend at least two events per year for example and/or need to serve on a subcommittee.

Staff will put together an overview for the commission to review at their October meeting.

### **XIII. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Councilmember Livengood had no report.

### **SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

MUSD Liaison Montano stated that there have been several very successful back to school nights.

### **IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
  - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
  - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
  - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

No further business was discussed and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2006.

**MOTION** to adjourn.

M/S: Garcia/Mateo                      Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz  
Recording Secretary

Cindy Maxwell  
Principal Administrative Analyst